

JORDAN TIMES

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 جوردن تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية «الراي»

Israelis release four Arabs

TEL AVIV, March 31 (AP). — Israel released four prisoners taken in southern Lebanon and handed them over to the International Red Cross today at the border town of Rosh Hanigra, the army spokesman said. One of the four was an Egyptian and the other three were Lebanese the spokesman said, and all had been suspected of being Palestinian guerrillas. There was no indication of why the four had been released. Israel took about 20 prisoners in its invasion of southern Lebanon March 14. Meanwhile, the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) prepared to accept reinforcements and supplies from Europe.

U.S. trade deficit worst ever

WASHINGTON, March 31 (R). — The United States today reported the worst one-month trade deficit in its history, and the dollar immediately plunged on world currency markets. The commerce department's announcement of a \$4.52 billion deficit in February surprised currency traders, setting off a fresh bout of dollar selling on the major foreign exchange markets of London, Frankfurt, Zurich and New York. Imports totalled nearly \$15 billion dollars, the largest ever for one month and more than \$2 billion from the January level. Foreign natural gas and other energy-related goods accounted for a quarter of the import bill.

Barre holds post as France emphasises priority of economy

PARIS, March 31 (R). — French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing tonight re-appointed Raymond Barre Prime Minister and asked him to form a new government.

The president's decision was initially met with surprise but many analysts after Mr. Barre and his government resigned at a special session.

The resignation automatically followed the general election victory of the ruling centre-right coalition parties over the opposition Communists and Socialists earlier this month.

Mr. Barre, a former economist and professor who has been prime minister since mid-1976, had been considered virtually assured of succeeding himself since the ruling coalition's unexpected victory in the election. His chances were strengthened by President Giscard d'Estaing's post-election assertion that the top policy priority remained the economy.

Mr. Barre's economic role in the outgoing government was emphasised by the fact that he also held the finance portfolio.

The 54-year-old prime minister will now spend the weekend pondering the composition of the new administration, which political analysts expect to differ considerably from the last cabinet.

While the ruling Gaullists, Republicans and Centreists are still likely to provide the cabinet's backbone, the president wants Mr. Barre to bring in new faces.

Leftwing politicians and union leaders crossed the threshold of the Elysee Presidential Palace for the first time in years -- in the case of Communist chief Georges Marchais, three decades -- and outlined their priority grievances to M. Giscard d'Estaing yesterday.

The president has said he wants to promote a more relaxed working relationship between the government and the opposition, such as exists in Britain, West Germany and the United States.

Sadat prepares message to President Carter on talks

CAIRO, March 31 (R). — Egyptian President Anwar Sadat today prepared a message to President Carter on the outcome of two days of talks with Israeli Defence Minister Ezer Weizman, a presidential spokesman said.

Mr. Weizman returned home today after failing to persuade President Sadat to revive peace talks between their countries.

The presidential spokesman said yesterday Egypt was not prepared to resume stalled political and military talks until Israel changed its stand. He said today's meeting was a completion of yesterday's discussions, but gave no details.

Informed sources said President Sadat was keen not to close the door on the peace-seeking process. Egypt suspended Middle East peace negotiations earlier this year because of what it considered Israeli intransigence on basic issues -- withdrawal from occupied Arab territories and self-determination for the Palestinians. The Cairo newspaper Al Ahram said Mr. Weizman had come to Egypt to help Israel get out of an impasse in which, it said, recent Israeli-American talks in Washington ended.

Guerrillas pessimistic on early Israeli pull-out

BEIRUT, March 31 (R). — Palestinian commanders said today they did not believe there would be an early Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon, where the front lines were reported quiet for the second day running.

"They want to stay. They are going to table so many conditions for their withdrawal that no-one will be able to agree to them," said an official of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Many Lebanese government officials shared such views. There have been difficulties in the deployment of troops belonging to the newly established United Nations Interim Force in southern Lebanon (UNIFIL), planned to eventually number 4,000 men.

A contingent of French paratroopers based in the Palestinian-controlled southern port of Tyre has so far failed in attempts to occupy the Qasbiyah bridge carrying the main guerrilla supply route to the south.

George Habash, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, said today that Palestinians would not budge from their present positions in south Lebanon.

He told a mass meeting here: "We shall not allow any one to ask us to withdraw one millimetre from the areas where the Palestinian revolution is now deployed... we wish to tell the U.N. interim force

that we cannot know anything called ceasefire.

No interference

It was reported from Paris that Mr. Arafat said today his commands would help the U.N. peace-keeping force in south Lebanon as long as it did not interfere with Palestinian military action or presence in Lebanon.

His remarks, in an interview with the French Communist daily l'Humanité, referred specifically to a French paratroop regiment serving under the U.N. banner in the Tyre area where there has been tension involving Palestinian guerrillas.

Mr. Arafat said: "As far as the French troops are concerned, we will treat them the same way as the other U.N. contingents as long as they pursue the aims of the United Nations and they do not interfere in the action and presence in Lebanon of our military forces."

Mr. Arafat told l'Humanité that the presence of the commandos was based on the Cairo and Riyadh agreements between the Lebanese authorities and Palestinians.

Two prominent Lebanese leftists said in interviews yesterday that they suspected the French paratroops were trying to neutralise the guerrillas in favour of the central Lebanese authorities and particularly the Lebanese Christian Maronite community.

Weizman returns from Cairo without progress on talks

TEL AVIV, March 31 (R). — Israeli Defence Minister Ezer Weizman returned today from Cairo where talks with President Anwar Sadat and other Egyptian leaders failed to produce an agreement for restarting Middle East peace talks, airport sources said. Mr. Weizman landed at a minor airport in Tel Aviv, dodging newsmen waiting at Ben Gurion international airport outside the city.

Mr. Weizman immediately reported to Prime Minister Menachem Begin in Jerusalem and told correspondents later: "I have never been a pessimist in my life and I am not pessimistic now."

One government official, commenting on Egyptian statements that no progress was made during the Defence Minister's visit to Egypt which began yesterday and ended this morning, said: "It could not have been a complete washout otherwise Weizman would not have stayed on."

"Presumably he brought back some Egyptian ideas which will be discussed and if any new decisions are required the matter can be dealt with at Sunday's cabinet meeting."

40 minute briefing

Mr. Weizman -- who stayed overnight at the Taha Palace in the Cairo suburb of Heliopolis -- held a second round of talks today with President Sadat, Vice President Hosni Mubarak and War Minister General Mohammad Abdul Ghani Gamassi.

Then, after flying into a minor airport in Tel Aviv, he went by helicopter to Jerusalem to report to Premier Begin in a meeting that lasted 40 minutes.

An American (ABC) news report said President Sadat was furious and felt deceived because Mr. Weizman brought no significantly new proposals to Cairo.

But Israeli radio said Mr. Weizman was reported to have told Mr. Begin in a telephone call from Cairo last night that his talks had been "interesting."

There has been strong domestic and international pressure for Mr. Begin to revise his policy on the future of the West Bank and the issue of Israeli settlements in occupied Arab territories -- the two main stumbling blocks to resumed talks.

Government officials said the decision for Mr. Weizman to go to Cairo involved only a small circle of close advisers to Mr. Begin.

They said they believed Mr. Weizman had an idea, which they did not disclose, which he wanted to explore with the Egyptians and that neither Mr. Begin nor Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan wished to stand in his way.

It was clear, the officials said, that Mr. Weizman had taken some ideas to Cairo since he would not wish to endanger his personal relationship with President Sadat or General Gamassi by going empty-handed.

Analysts here believed that a point was being reached where the United States would step in with its own proposals on a declaration of principles for a Middle East settlement -- the key to resumed talks. U.S. officials have said in the past this option was being kept open and the analysts said Washington could move after Mr. Dayan's expected visit to the United States later this month.

Missiles for Israel

WASHINGTON, (AP). — The Pentagon notified Congress yesterday it plans to sell Israel 60 improved Hawk antiaircraft missiles and two high frequency radar test sets for \$9 million.

Officials said this proposed sale has been in the works for some time and has no relation to the Carter administration's plans to sell war planes to Israel, Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

Congress has 30 days to act on the proposed sale.

Public, private doubts wait Carter on first trip to black Africa

AGOS, Nigeria, March 31 (AP). — U.S. President Jimmy Carter arrives in oil-rich Nigeria today, confronted by deep official and public suspicion about his motives in Africa.

President Carter ended a brief visit to Brazil today by meeting prominent figures who have criticised Brazil's military government on its human rights record.

This was one of the issues which have led to strained relations between the United States and Brazil.

Mr. Carter, however, said in a news conference held before he left yesterday that Brazil was improving the situation, although differences still existed on what procedure should be adopted to guarantee individual rights.

"As a leader of a nation I reserve the right to meet whom I please and I think this is a constructive thing which will give me a much better understanding of what exists in Brazil," he said.

The meeting was not expected to please the president's official hosts. The critics, including two Roman Catholic cardinals, spent 45 minutes exchanging views with President Carter who departed afterward for Nigeria.

President Carter and his 500-strong entourage -- about half are journalists -- are due to land in Lagos at 23:05 GMT. The three-day state visit, the first to Africa by a U.S. president, has had a cool reception in the largely government-owned local press of black Africa's richest and most populous nation.

"Nigerians are understandably enthusiastic about this visit, just as they are wary of the new friendship that has grown by leaps and bounds between Nigerian rulers and the new administration in America," observed the respected New Nigerian in a front-page editorial.

African welcome "Nigerians will not be satisfied with platitudes or declarations of good intentions," said the editorial. But as with other newspapers, it mellowed to add: "All in all, in spite of our reservations and apprehension on the role of Americans in Africa, we offer President Jimmy Carter and his large entourage

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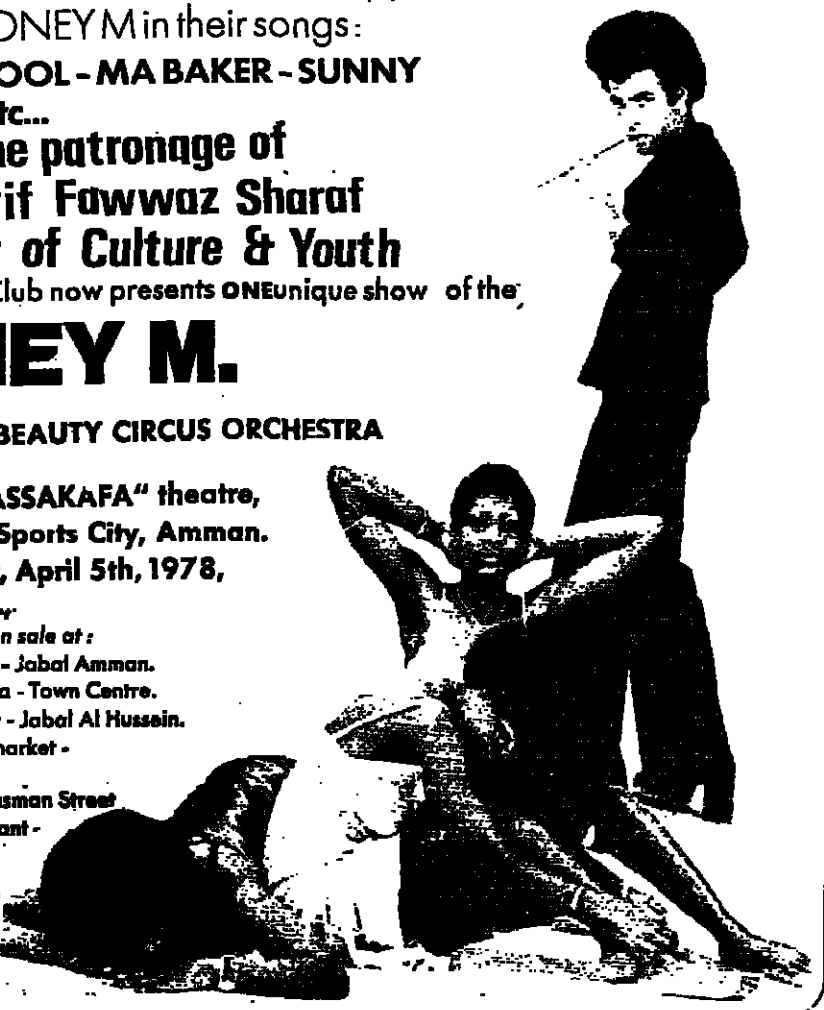
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 Responsible Editor: **MOHAMAD AMAD**

Editorial and advertising offices:
 Jordan Press Foundation
 University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan
 Telephones: 67171-2-3-4
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A failure is confirmed

Is there no limit to Zionist gall? No wonder President Sadat is angry. We would be too if Israeli Defence Minister Ezer Weizman dropped in for a chat about peace and all he conveyed of substance was a pledge that Israeli troops would withdraw from south Lebanon as soon as United Nations peace-keeping forces took control of the area. To make that sort of statement, you have to have two things. First, you need to have about 25,000 troops occupying south Lebanon, and second you have to have an amount of untempered gall proportionally as vast. Mr. Weizman has both, which, if he thinks about it, is probably one reason why nearly half a year after President Sadat's extraordinary trip to Jerusalem we have less peace, not more peace, in the Middle East.

The Israeli position today is preposterous, and if it were the position of any other country in any other negotiating situation, it would be thrown out the window in minutes. But because Israel is Israel, and because it has a veto power over the ethical and political exhortations of nearly all major Western states, Israel is treated with a soft touch. There is nothing in sight -- international law, United Nations resolutions, the consensus of the entire world about a territorial withdrawal and recognising Palestinian national rights -- that Israel does not blatantly disregard in its present position. And what does it get in return? It seems to get an enormous amount of deference from the Western world that keeps it pumped up with money and guns.

There is only so much that any human being can take, and we think that the latest decisions of the Israeli Knesset in supporting the policies of Israeli Premier Menachem Begin, coupled with the half-hearted suggestions that Mr. Weizman has made to President Sadat, should just about toll the death knell for President Sadat's initiative. There comes a point in any failed adventure where to continue just for the sake of continuity only piles humiliation upon failure. Mr. Sadat has had honourable intentions, but he has obviously been unable to budge the Israelis, and has gotten no further with the Americans.

If Mr. Sadat does not learn from his failures and cut short his losses, he will only perpetuate them on an increasingly more humiliating scale. And failure, as we see from Mr. Weizman's trip, is all we have today.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

Jordanian newspapers Friday commented on what His Majesty King Hussein told visiting American businessmen Thursday concerning Jordan's stand on peace in the Middle East.

The King has exposed the myth fabricated by the Zionist lobby in the United States that a strong Israel is a moderate Israel, AL RAY said in its editorial.

Under this spurious pretext, the Zionists were able to transport whole sections of the U.S. arsenal to Tel Aviv with the result that Israel rebelled against U.N. Security Resolution 242, which Menachem Begin scotched with one stroke of the pen, the newspaper adds.

Taking the same view, AL DUSTOUR says that in his meeting with the American businessmen King Hussein pointed out that the Middle East now stands at a crossroads, either a just and lasting peace will be achieved by Israel committing itself to Resolution 242 or the chance for a peaceful settlement will slip away.

In his column in AL RAY, Jum'a Hamad calls on the Arab peoples no longer to lament such occasions as the Balfour Declaration, the 15th of May (the establishment of Israel) or the 5th of June (the Arab defeat of 1967). These events, episodes of the Zionist invasion of Palestine, have gone down in the annals of history, he says. Rather, the Arabs should observe and cherish such days as the Day of the Land which was marked yesterday throughout all occupied Palestine. This commemorates the occasion two years ago when the Arab inhabitants of the occupied land rose against the Israeli policy of expansion and the confiscation of land. Six Arabs were killed in clashes at that time.

Events come and go, but the earth is for ever. "It is our life; it is the compass that shows our future direction and existence," Mr. Hamad says.

WHAT'S GOING ON

An exhibition of books on fine arts is opening today at the University of Jordan Library. The exhibition, lasting for one week, is part of the National Book Week celebrations.

Martyrs' Memorial Museum takes up history of Jordan's armed forces since the Arab Revolt



Soldiers on guard duty at the Museum stand on either side of the badge of the Jordanian Armed Forces on the entrance door, cast in bronze.

Text and photos by Marianne Pearson

Jordan's newest museum the Martyrs' Memorial Museum, administered by the Jordanian Armed Forces General Headquarters, is attracting over 2,000 visitors a month. Col. (retired) Abdul Majid Jayzazi, Director of the Museum, says that most visitors are Jordanian, but many foreign tourists find their way to it also, despite the fact that it is little publicised.

The museum was opened in July 1977 as part of the silver jubilee celebrations. Located on a high hill covered with pine trees behind the sports city stadium, the approach is up a long steep ramp which is flanked by sidewalks with stairs in tiers. The building, shaped like the Kaaba in Mecca, gradually and impressively is revealed to visitors mounting them.

A band of black basalt covered with verses from the Koran is the only exterior decoration of the monumental building, built of white Jordanian stone. Similarly, inside the building above the displays

are glass panels bearing verses from the Koran. All these verses call on the people to fight in the name of God and tell of the contributions of warriors and martyrs.

A large courtyard surrounds the museum in which are ranged World War II tanks and guns used by the Jordanian Armed Forces. These are painted with a protective coat of pale gold enamel, and are often decorated by children who find climbing them an irresistible challenge.

The doors of the museum, with the badge of the Jordanian Armed Forces on them, are cast in bronze. The entrance way has one-way glass which appears dark from the outside, but from the inside gives a gold-toned view of the city from the hill. The interior makes use of Italian marble and polished granite from Jordan.

Temperatures are cool inside, ideal for the exhibits. There is no air-conditioning, but since the building is built into the hill and much of it underground, there doesn't need to be.

The visitor past the exhibits arranged in chronological order from the time of the Arab revolt under Sharif Hussein up to the present. The displays were designed by Dr. Christopher Rhodes of the Imperial War Museum in London. They use dioramas, models, authentic weapons and costumes to tell the story of the armed forces. Historic photographs from the Imperial War Museum's collection, many of them large blow-ups, are used profusely and with good effect. Description of the displays is in Arabic and English.

The British adventurer T.E. Lawrence ("Lawrence of Arabia"), whose military renown has faded worse than his literary reputation, is not mentioned.

The Museum is meant not only to instruct visitors about the history of the armed forces but also to serve as a tribute to those who died in its service. At the end of the ramp is a listing in gold of their names and home towns behind glass on a green background.

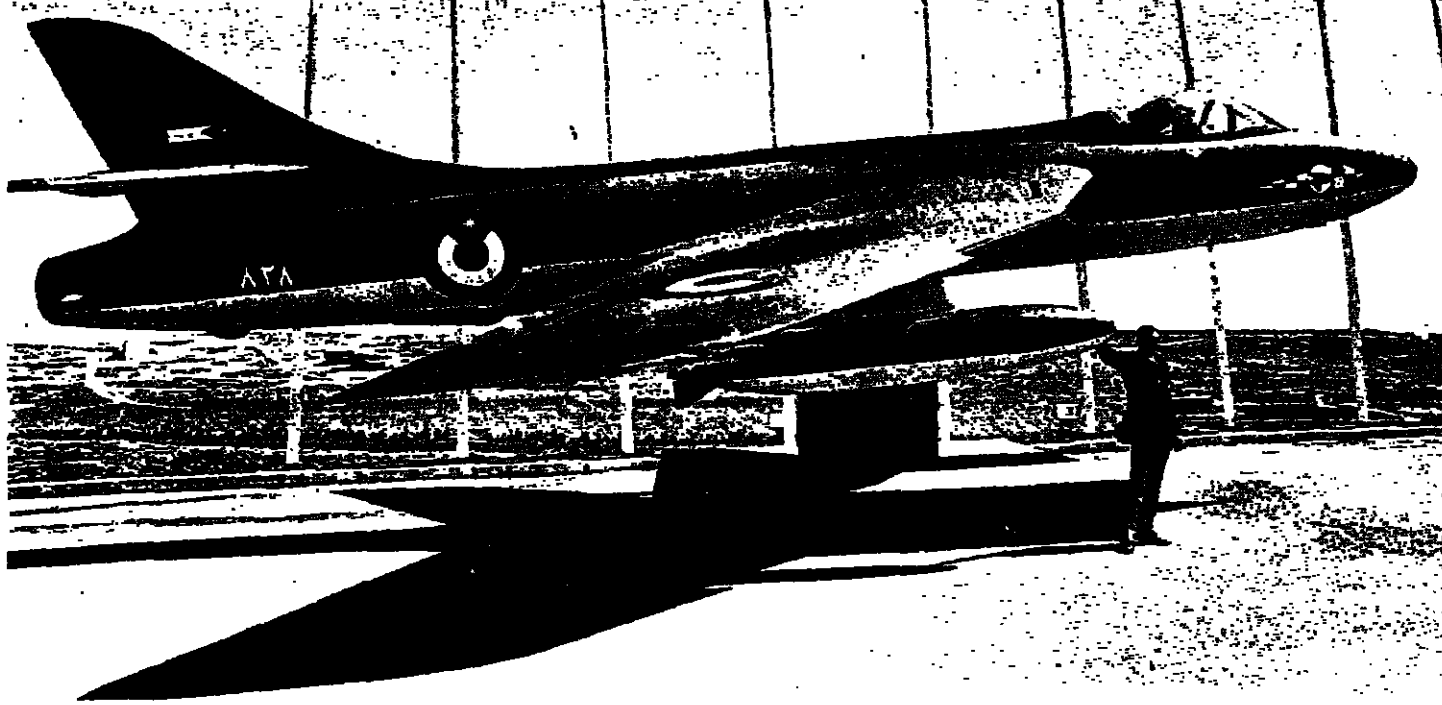
Beyond this memorial case is a roof garden, symbolising the ultimate aim of the armed

forces -- lasting peace. Pools of water surround an olive tree, planted in nine metres of earth. Visiting dignitaries are asked to ceremoniously water it. In spite of the pampering the first olive tree received it did not flourish and has recently been replaced by a healthier specimen.

A special feature of the museum is a slide show with music and sound effects at 4:30 p.m. on Fridays and Sundays, the museum's busiest days. Four projectors, computer-controlled, show on the walls of the central core of the building the story of the armed forces. Nearly 1,000 slides are used in the sophisticated 25-minute presentation of the story of the Jordanian Armed Forces -- navy and air forces as well as army -- the training of the armed forces and the services they render as well as the services they receive, such as those of Al Hussein Medical Centre.

The museum is open every day except Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free.

A green-carpeted ramp leads the visitor past exhibits of the history of the armed forces. On the left is the large central structure on which slide shows are projected downstairs and which contains a massive amount of soil for the olive tree in the roof garden. A reflection is seen on the polished Italian marble floor downstairs.



A Hawker Hunter fighter-bomber used by the armed forces during World War II is in a side courtyard. The flags of the fifteen regiments fly behind it.



An historical photograph from the Imperial War Museum, London, reproduced by courtesy of the Armed Forces General Headquarters, shows soldiers in 1916, the time of the Arab Revolt.

Director of the museum, Col. (retired) Jayzazi tells a group of visiting school girls about the significance of the peace garden on the museum's roof.



A green-carpeted ramp leads the visitor past exhibits of the history of the armed forces. On the left is the large central structure on which slide shows are projected downstairs and which contains a massive amount of soil for the olive tree in the roof garden. A reflection is seen on the polished Italian marble floor downstairs.



Maj. (retired) Ali Rihai, quartermaster of the museum, supervising the replacement of the olive tree on the museum's garden roof with a vigorous specimen from the Jordan Valley on March 11.



In the museum's spacious courtyard vehicles and guns are painted with a protective coat of enamel. This is a British Seaford arm vehicle with a 75 mm gun.

Clubs, Societies, Sports Groups— let us know what you are doing

Our "What's going on" section needs YOUR help if it is to be a success. It's the news of your clubs, your societies, your meetings and outings that are open to the public which appear in "What's going on." Help us to help you publicize your public events. Clearly, however, school open days, concerts, commercial exhibitions — our readers are interested in your events. Please write us at T.O. Box 6718, telephone 67171 or even call in at our offices on the Amman-Swedish road between 10:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. and tell us what's going on. The Jordan Times will publish free listings on the day of the event.

"The best person to sit with is a book"

The slogan to note during National Book Week

By a Jordan Times staff reporter

Today, Saturday April 1, marks the beginning of National Book Week in Jordan. In a statement a few days ago proclaiming the event, Minister of Culture and Youth Sharif Fattur and Youth Sharif Fattur stressed the importance of the occasion in the pursuit of cultural development and urged the citizens of Jordan to take more interest in culture as a dynamic movement on the road to progress.

To find out exactly how Jordan was going to celebrate the event, the Jordan Times spoke to Dr. Ahmad Sharkas, Director General of the Department of National Libraries, Documentation and Archives, (DNLDA) which is an independent directorate serving, among many other things, as an umbrella group, a clearing house and the highest authority in the Kingdom for books, libraries and information.

The idea for National Book Week, Dr. Sharkas said, came as a result of Jordan's participation in 1972 in International Book Year. It was realised then that Jordan could benefit from setting aside a time each year during which particular emphasis was put on reading and the importance of knowledge to developing countries such as Jordan.

At present Jordan is well behind other developing countries

in respect to reading and information. Less than the established level of 2.5 books per person set for developing nations are available to the Jordanian.

Posters and book-marks prepared by DNLDA

Due to the fact that it is desperately understaffed at the moment and is in the process of moving premises, DNLDA has not been able to organise an exhibition itself or do as much as it would have liked to for National Book Week, but it has made many large, bright posters of orange, violet and green, bearing the same emblem as used during a book exhibition last year organised by the department to celebrate the silver jubilee of his Majesty King Hussein. These posters, which are appearing all over Amman and throughout the Kingdom from Irbid in the north down to Aqaba, carry quotations relevant to the importance of books in life.

The quotations, although they appear in Arabic, have been translated as follows:

"The most noble place in the universe is the saddle of a horse and the best person to sit with is a book": Al Mutanabi, 303-354AH

"Take the book forcefully": the Quran

"Oh God, teach him the book": from prophetic tradition.

And a much more familiar one to English speakers:

"Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body": Sir Richard Steele 1672-1729

In addition, the department has had book-marks printed, bearing the same emblem and one of the quotations. The book-marks will be distributed free of charge during National Book Week by many libraries and bookshops.

Discounts at bookstores

Speaking of bookshops, one piece of news that will please the English speaking community is that one or two enterprising bookshops in Amman namely Amman Bookshop at the Third Circle and Al Muhtaseb Bookshop downtown have agreed to offer a 25 per cent discount on all books sold during the week — a real boon to those of us who turn to books on all occasions from birthdays to congratulations to simply reading them ourselves, and an opportunity to stock up on all those titles we've been meaning to buy but were somewhat dissuaded from doing so upon reading the price tags.

Dr. Sharkas hopes this discount will also encourage Jordanians, and especially women, to get into the reading habit. Why especially women? Well, as they make up 50 per cent of

the population in Jordan and are daily faced with the problems of trying to reconcile ancient traditional ideas about a woman's role in society with Twentieth Century ideas imported from the West, Dr. Sharkas feels that wider reading would help women to cope with the changing scene in Jordan, and encourage them to play a fuller role in Jordan's development.

Other organisations which will be actively celebrating National Book Week are the University of Jordan Library, the Haya Arts Centre, the Amman Municipality Library and the Ministry of Education.

Haya Arts Centre and U. of J. Library

The University Library is holding an exhibition of books on fine arts which will run from Saturday April 1 to Saturday April 8. The Haya Arts Centre is celebrating National Book Week in a way it feels most appropriate and valuable in encouraging children to make more use of books in their lives. During the week the centre's mobile library will be making many extra trips out to remote villages and small towns. They will not only be taking with them more books for children to borrow but will also be giving out free copies of a book called "My colour trip in Jordan" which was written and published in Jordan by the centre. Along with this brightly coloured and beautifully illustrated book the children will receive a poster which they will be able to colour in themselves.

Also during the week the centre will have more story reading periods for the children and will be organising an exhibition of the books in the library. The books will not be for sale.

Individual contributions

Individuals are also contributing to National Book Week. A good example being Miss Linda Layne, a young American with a degree in Women's studies and anthropology. Miss Layne is compiling a bibliography of all books and documents (in English) on women in Jordan.

One of Dr. Sharkas' students in a two-year degree course in Library and Information Science at the University of Jordan will follow up Miss Layne's work by helping to compile a bibliography on the same subject in Arabic.

The other students in the course, being teachers, have agreed to support the week in their schools by putting special emphasis on reading and encouraging the children to make more use of the library facilities available to them.

The Ministry of Education, in a further attempt to reach the younger generation, has organised a book reading competition for children of all ages, as well as inaugurating 30 school libraries in governorates throughout Jordan.

Young people outside Amman have also been preparing for this week. The Irbid Youth Centre has worked hard to prepare for its exhibition of Jordanian books being held today in the Irbid Chamber of Commerce.

Also as part of National Book Week, Dr. Sharkas will try to visit most of the 30 or so main libraries in Jordan. During these visits he will discuss the work carried out in these libraries, their achievements in relation to encouraging people to make use of them and the problems they are facing whether they be financial or organisational.

The outcome of this trip, Dr. Sharkas hopes, will be the convening of a national conference on public libraries and their place in Jordan's development which will be a major step towards much needed nationwide coordination in this field.

"In the meantime", Dr. Sharkas continued "we ask people during this week particularly to reflect on the importance of books and reading, and especially their importance to young growing countries like Jordan."

Photographers wanted

The Jordan Times wants to see the work of photographers with black and white prints of any and all scenes in Jordan, either individual pictures or collections of photo-stories on a single theme. We are interested in publishing individual photos or photo-stories on a regular basis, and we'd like to see the work of local photographers, both Jordanians and non-Jordanians alike.

If you have photos to show or would like to do some feature photos for the Jordan Times, please contact Mr. Khouri at the Jordan Times offices any day between 9:00 and 12:00 a.m. and between 4:00 and 8:00 p.m. to make an appointment.

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10:45 News in Arabic
11:00 Arabic series

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14:10 Music
14:30 Story time
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 Pop Session

17:00 Melody time
17:30 Pop Session
18:00 News Summary
18:03 Album Review
18:03 News Bulletin
18:10 Music
18:30 Sign-off

EMERGENCIES

Doctors:

Abhi (21127)
Shmeisani (63294)
Tadna (44860)

Pharmacies:

Amman: Sabbagh (23157)
Nihad (30844)
Jamil (37291)
Fattah (37140)

Irbid: Tabeelat
Zarqa: Zarqa
Ghasan

BBC RADIO

05:00 News; Press Review
05:15 About Britain
05:30 Racing
05:45 World Today
06:00 News; Press Review
06:30 Terry Wogan
07:00 News; News about Britain

07:15 From the Weeklies
07:30 Do You Remember?
07:45 Letter from London
08:00 News; Reflections
08:15 Europa
08:30 Command Performance
09:00 News; Press Review
09:15 World Today
09:30 Enthusiasm
09:45 David Copperfield
10:15 Racing
10:30 Matthew on Music
11:00 News; News about Britain

11:15 Europa
11:30 You are what you eat
12:00 Radio Newsreel
12:15 Jazz for the Asking
12:45 Sports Round-up

VOICE OF AMERICA

18:30 Show Music USA
19:00 News and Topical Reports
19:15 News Horizons
19:30 Studio One
20:00 Special English, News/ Words and their Stories
20:15 The Concert Hall
21:00 News and New Products USA
21:15 Critics Choice
21:30 Issues in the News
23:00 World News; Commentary

AMMAN AIRPORT

Arrivals:

6:30 Jeddah
7:30 Cairo (EA)
8:25 Muscat, Doha
8:45 Tehran
9:00 Karachi, Dubai
9:30 Kuwait
9:30 Damascus
9:50 Aqaba
11:15 Beirut
17:20 Copenhagen, Frankfurt
18:00 Benghazi
18:45 Cairo
19:20 Jeddah
20:30 Beirut (MEA)
21:40 London (BA)
22:30 Damascus

Departures:

6:05 Damascus, Munich, Fr.

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American Centre (USIS) Tel. 41520
British Council " 36147-8
French Cultural Centre " 37009
Goethe Institute " 41993
Soviet Cultural Centre " 44203
Amman Municipal Library " 36111

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Civil defence rescue " 24391-4
Fire headquarters " 22090
Firstaid, fire, police " 19
Jordan Electric Power Co. (emergency) " 36381-2
Municipal water service (emergency) " 37111-3
Police headquarters " 39141
Najdeh roving patrol rescue police, (English spoken) 24 hours a day for emergency help " 21111, 37777
Airport information (Alia) " 55205

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Al Sha'b Art Gallery " 228-527
American Centre " 552-362
Arab Cultural Centre " 333-727
Deutsch Democratic Republic Cultural Centre " 332-932
French Cultural Centre " 336-694
Kabball Theatre " 222-016
National Museum " 114-854
Soviet Cultural Centre " 225-650
Spanish Cultural Centre " 334-003
Umma Art Gallery " 334-819
Zabariya Public Library " 111-318

Useful telephone numbers

(Damascus)

Ambulance (government) Tel. 90
Chamber of Commerce " 118-339
Electric Power Co. (repair) " 223-887
Fire headquarters " 91
Information " 96/97
Municipal water service " 113-500
Time (in Arabic) " 90

IMF members agree to give fund new powers, abolish official gold price, increase SDR use

WASHINGTON, March 31 (R). — Members of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have agreed to give the fund wide new powers over exchange rate practices, to abolish the official price of gold and to increase use of the IMF's special drawing right (SDR).

More than 80 per cent of the fund's 132 members, representing over 80 per cent of the voting power within the fund, have now ratified the changes, senior IMF officials said yesterday.

The special drawing right

is the fund's internal accounting unit.

The agreement comes in the form of ratification of the second amendment to the fund's articles of agreement and is expected to become official this weekend.

By abolishing the official price of gold, the IMF now allows members to buy and sell gold among themselves at market prices, something they have been unable to do before. But officials do not expect this will spark off any rush by central banks into the gold market.

The farming of the amendment was completed in April 1976 and it has taken two years to ratify.

The IMF now has powers to express its views on exchange rate policies followed by individual countries and allows the managing director to initiate special discussions about currencies if this is felt warranted.

No hard and fast rules have been laid down, however, as to just how this will be accomplished. The officials said procedures will have to be worked out over a long period of time and will be adjusted as necessary.

Wider SDR use

Other international institutions such as the World Bank and the regional development banks will now be able to use the SDR in their transactions if they wish.

But IMF officials said any wider use of the accounting unit will be limited to government and international financial institutions, and the private sector will not be able to make use of it.

The amendment also provides for the establishment of a new "council" as an organ of the IMF. It is envisaged that if the council is established, it will have the power of decision unlike the present committee which can only act as an advisory body.

Members also approved a sixth increase in IMF quotas. A country's quota governs how much it can borrow from the fund to help deal with balance of payments problems.

Recession hits B.P.

LONDON, March 31 (R). — With five supertankers to be mothballed and its largest oil refinery shut down for two months because of a lack of demand, British Petroleum (B.P.) yesterday reported some typical problems facing international oil companies in a world trade recession.

The B.P. annual report published today also listed other problems, such as losses incurred because of erratic currency fluctuations, the weakness of the chemical industry and the likelihood of having to wind up a \$50 million animal feed plant in Italy because of objections from environmental groups.

B.P.'s main problem in 1977 has been an oil glut caused by the fact that production in the non-communist world last year reached an all-time high of 2,423 million tons.

B.P. Chairman David Steel forecast an increase in world oil production for the next decade. After that a decline will begin. In spite of this, five supertankers totalling 1.1 million tons deadweight are to be laid up indefinitely in the Far Eastern Sultanate of Brunei.

The present surplus of tanker tonnage is a worldwide problem. One B.P. supertanker has been in Brunei ever since it was built in 1975 and the company has decided to use its experience to run a lay-up service there.

There are already seven non-company Very Large Crude Carriers (VLCCs) mothballed in Brunei and the B.P. annual report said it was unlikely demand would match supply in the crude tanker market before the mid-1980s.

Asked whether the two-month closure of B.P.'s largest refinery at Rotterdam in Holland might be followed by similar closures, B.P. officials yesterday only replied the group was studying measures to curtail losses and that there were "many possibilities".

Iran expresses OPEC concern over dollar

VIENNA, March 31 (R). — Iranian Finance Minister Mohammad Yeganeh said yesterday oil-exporting nations would be forced to protect their financial interests if the U.S. dollar maintained its downward slide.

"We hope and expect that measures taken by the U.S. government in order to stop the further erosion of the dollar are successful so that no steps will be necessary by OPEC members to safeguard their interests," Dr. Yeganeh said.

The 13 members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) are

considering whether to drop the dollar as a price-calculation currency for oil. This will be a key issue when OPEC oil ministers meet in Geneva on May 4.

Dr. Yeganeh spoke at a press conference at OPEC's Vienna headquarters after a senior official said OPEC countries were losing between \$12 billion and \$17 billion a year because of the declining dollar.

"If the erosion continues, naturally OPEC members will have to take steps to safeguard their interests," the Iranian minister said.

Zambia reduces copper exports to boost price

LUSAKA, March 31 (R). — Zambia said yesterday it was reducing copper exports, its main source of foreign exchange, in an apparent attempt to force up the world price of the mineral.

It blamed transport and production difficulties and said about a sixth of its exports would be affected.

The land-locked country is in the throes of an economic crisis caused partly by the world slump in copper prices in 1974-75. Copper provides 95 per cent of its foreign income.

A spokesman for the state-owned Metal Marketing Corpo-

ration (Memaco) said the suspension would hit sales negotiated for delivery in May and would last until further notice.

"We sincerely hope that this move will contribute to higher prices of copper," Memaco Managing Director Lawrence Mutakshu told a press conference.

Zambia earlier agreed with two other major producers, Zaire and Peru, to reduce copper output by 15 per cent to try to improve prices.

Zambia last year produced about 650,000 tons of copper but made losses of about 31 million kwacha (about \$39 million).

French authorities examine tanker wreck following bombing

PORTSALL, France, March 31 (R). — French maritime authorities today examine the wreck of the supertanker Amoco Cadiz to determine whether any oil is left in its holds after two days of bombing operations.

Yesterday, three helicopters dropped a dozen 170-kilo (375-pound) depth charges on the mid-section of the tanker, which ran aground off the Brittany coast two weeks ago. They had bombed other sections of the ship the day before.

Maritime officials in Brittany said divers would probably examine the ship's hull today

to determine whether any further action was needed but added they were fairly certain the depth charges had completed the task.

The bombing operation was ordered to release the final 20,000 tons of oil because local residents feared a slow leak would develop, requiring constant anti-pollution efforts for months.

As the last crude oil seeped from the tanker, authorities in Cherbourg said they had called off an alert in the area, which includes the Channel Islands, because they believed there was no longer any risk that it would drift there.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON, (R). — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies against the dollar at the close of inter-bank trading on the London foreign exchange market; last night. Tourist rates will differ from those quoted below.

One sterling	1.8610/30	U.S. dollars
	2.1450/1500	Dutch guilders
	1.8250/8350	Swiss francs
	4.56/4.57	French francs
	851.00/75	Italian lire
	221.00/50	Japanese yen
	4.5845/65	Swedish crowns
	5.3015/35	Norwegian crowns
	5.5580/5610	Danish crowns

LONDON MARKET REPORT

Stock prices eased Friday following renewed weakness of sterling on foreign exchange markets and on some speculation of a rise in interest rates in the near future, dealers said. At 15:00 hrs. the F.T. index was down 5.1 at 462.6.

Government bonds closed up to 1/4 easier but as much as 5/16 above lowest levels in light trading, dealers said.

Equities drifted lower on end-account technicalities but recovered slightly during the afternoon, dealers said. However, gold shares rose with the bullion price and Australian issues firmed. U.S. and Canadian shares advanced.

Unilever, ICI, Fisons and Glaxo fell by between 5p and 7-1/2p among easier industrials. Lucas gained 4p to 278-1/2p against the trend following higher than expected interim profits. Reckitt and Colman fell by 3p to 419-1/2p on further consideration of final results.

Royal Dutch rose by 1/8 to 46-5/8. Lloyds fell by 5p to 270-1/2p.

Price of gold closed in London Friday at \$181.60/oz.

Lebanon stands to lose \$30 m. worth of citrus fruit, tobacco in south

BEIRUT, Lebanon, March 31 (AP). — Lebanon stands to lose about \$30 million worth of citrus fruit and tobacco remaining unharvested in Israeli-occupied south Lebanon, trade officials complained yesterday.

Nearly 50 per cent of the country's estimated 250,000 tons of citrus fruit was picked from groves in the south, just before the Israelis invaded on March 15.

The remainder will have to be picked by the end of April, the Chairman of south Lebanon's Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mohammad Zaatar, said.

"If the Israelis do not evacuate the south before the end of April, the fruits will be plagued and damaged," he warned.

Also, parliament deputies from southern Lebanese governments have asked the government for \$10 million in aid to tobacco farmers who failed to cultivate their fields because of the Israeli invasion.

The government is expected to respond favourably, Mr. Zaatar's assistant said.

Mr. Zaatar said it was too early to estimate the damage caused by Israeli air and sea bombardments to the citrus and tobacco groves.

The supply of citrus fruit to Beirut markets has dropped from 250 tons a day to 60 tons, with prices rising from 30 cents per kilo for lemons to 57 cents per kilo and from 35 to 76 cents per kilo for oranges.

Lebanon's traditional markets, mainly in the Gulf region, have turned to Egypt, Spain, Greece and Turkey for citrus fruit and tobacco, he said.

Some 800 fishermen's families south of the port city of Sidon have also gone out of business because of the invasion, leaving only 20 per cent of the southern Lebanese coastline safe for fishing.

"Prices of fish have been increasing every day, culminating to a hike of about 180 per cent yesterday morning," an official of the Beirut Chamber of Commerce said.

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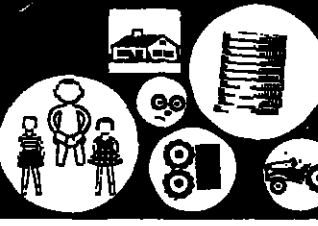
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from the CARROLL RICHTER INSTITUTE

GENERAL TENDENCIES: There could be some difficult conditions in effect today and tonight, but you can overcome them by being warm and charming to those you come in contact with. Be more thoughtful of others.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Make sure that you handle outside responsibilities in clever way at this time. Allow time to make plans for the future.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Make a new contact who can be of great assistance to you in the future. Think in terms of expanding in career matters.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Try to be more careful in handling monetary matters at this time. Show more thought to your mate now and get excellent response.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Make sure you are considerate of associates and you get better results now. Avoid unnecessary expenditures of money.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Ideal day to put personal affairs in better order and establish more harmony with family members. Strive for happiness.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Try to please congenials more and thus have better relations in the future. Plan time to engage in favorite hobby.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Show more interest in others and put aside any past misunderstandings for best results. Be careful of one who opposes you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Organize your work so that you can gain finer benefits. Ideal time to clear up any misunderstanding you may have with loved one.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Make long-range plans to have greater abundance in the future. Put aside more money for any possible emergencies.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Not a good day to visit a friend who could be quite demanding now. Await a better time when you can cope with this person.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) If you are more kind and courteous of those you love, you get better results with them. Engage in pleasant activities.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Ideal day to show more thought for older persons who have been good to you. Not a good time for group activities.

Sudan's Six Year Plan looks like solving major communication and transport problems

By John Worrall

KHARTOUM (F.T.) — The Sudan is Africa's largest country. There are one million square miles of it. In the pipeline are vast, expensive plans for agricultural development; more cotton, more maize, more groundnuts, more beef, more sheep. There is plenty of water, and the Blue and White Niles have been tamed for electricity and irrigation. Vast areas are extremely fertile. In some parts there are very good rains.

The eternal bottleneck is communications. There are not enough roads, not enough railways. There is not even enough river transport, though this is the classic mode of Sudan travel. Huge developments in the past have been planned for the country without much thought of getting goods and people from A to B.

Six Year Plan

That is changing now. The current Six Year Plan puts down a figure of £5500 m. (£1 = Sudanese pound 0.66) for transport and communications. Of that £5249.54 m. is being spent on new roads and the improvement of old ones. Some Sudanese roads are mere tracks in the sand.

Modernising, extending and improving the Sudan Railways is to be given £578.37 m. This suggests a shift in emphasis to roads from railways, which up till now have been the most important means of Sudan transport.

Today there are only 450 kms. of tarred roads and 1,700 kms. of gravel roads in the whole Sudan. There are 4,757 kms. of railway. Some tracks, and one suspects some rolling stock — date back to the days of Kitchener.

Many miles of vital roads are impassable during the rainy season. Everything stops. Railways can be washed away. A friend of mine travelled from Khartoum to Juba recently, mostly over desert tracks. In the south Sudan, which was ravaged by civil war for 17 years, roads had been mined and bridges destroyed. Trains are slow because of the narrow gauge track. It recently took 20 hours to travel about 480 kms by train from Khartoum to Ed Dama, on the Blue Nile, the centre of ambitious new agricultural developments.

Roads take the lead

Part of the track leading from Khartoum to Port Sudan, the country's only port, is being doubled. But it looks fr-

The biggest country in Africa has less than 300 miles of tarred road. But things are changing in Sudan, and even the nineteenth-century river-boats on the Nile at Khartoum may soon find themselves part of a modern transport plan for an ancient country.

on the Development Plan figures as though roads in future will be king.

It seems that the government is banking on the discovery of oil in the south where Chevron has a 100,000 square mile concession, with one rig in use and another to come. The company is spending \$12 m. in exploration.

A splendid new bridge is being built to span the White Nile at Kosti, on the main railway line from Khartoum to Wau in the south, the furthest point of the railway. The longest bridge in Africa, it is being constructed by an Italian firm with World Bank and Italian aid and is to cost \$35 m. It replaces the old road and railway bridge, which is so narrow that pilots are available at either end to take cars and lorries across. Built by the British, the story goes that it was intended only to take Bedford trucks.

Next year is the target for the completion of the trunk road from Khartoum to Port Sudan, a fine highway that will ease the pressure on the railway. By that time the oil pipeline from Port Sudan will also be built, removing more pressures on road and railway.

River transport

Historically, river transport on the two Niles has played a large part in the development of Sudan's economy. Though taking third place in the plans for future transport (the Six Year Plan allocates only £513.49 m. to river trans-

port), new barges and tugs are going into service, improved cargo-handling services are envisaged and cargo capacity is being stepped up. The Victorian river steamers may be on the way out or refurbished, if possible, for the tourists the Sudan is anxious to attract.

Dramatic changes have been taking place at Port Sudan, where congestion has been so bad that some ships have had to wait two months to unload, and last year there were always about 30 waiting in the harbour. A new man at the top, Brig. Gen. Mustafa Osman, has launched a cleanup campaign and the average number of ships waiting in the port is now about three. In one period of five days 28 ships entered the port to discharge 50,000 tons. Surcharge paid to shipping lines to compensate for delays has been reduced from 45 per cent to 15 per cent. There were salary rises all round to the 5,000 Sea Ports Corporation employees.

The irony is that in spite of this cleanup at the Sudan's only port, the railways are seriously overburdened. Last month 120,000 tons of customs-cleared cargo was waiting on wards transport, and there were 360,000 tons of uncleared cargo.

Air transport

Air transport must not be forgotten, though this is a minor problem because of its relatively small contribution to the transport of people and goods. Two Boeing 707s are now in use on international flights and two Boeing 737s for internal use, plus the more traditional Fokker Friendship. Khartoum Airport is being improved, and developments are earmarked in the Six Year Plan for Port Sudan, Juba, Wau and Malakal airports to take large jets.

This development will improve to some extent the serious transport situation in the south Sudan, but Juba is looking increasingly to Kenya to supply it with goods, even petrol, and as an outlet for exports. The Norwegians are rebuilding the road into Kenya and in a few years' time fleets of lorries will rumble into the south Sudan from Mombasa.

A rather better road links Kenya with the south Sudan through Uganda. But not every truck-driver likes to take his chances at the hands of Idi Amin's undisciplined soldiery.

— Financial Times News-Features

From economy to sport, New Zealand's worst drought ever makes its presence felt

By Dai Hayward

WELLINGTON (F.T.) — A New Zealand member of parliament has called on churches to pray for rain. Farmers are preparing to slaughter stock and the government has allocated hundreds of thousands of dollars to transport sheep and cattle more than 200 miles to find food and water.

In one community residents are showering under a local scenic waterfall because household water supplies have run dry. New Zealand is experiencing its worst drought in history.

In some areas there has been virtually no rain since November. The normally lush farming areas, renowned for their green grass, are now burnt brown, denuded of grass and water from weeks of scorching sunshine. Worst hit have been sheep and dairy farmers. Dairy cows started to dry off in mid-February. Soon many farmers were milking only once a day and by the middle of this month milk production had nosedived.

Meat producers have seen lambs being prepared for world markets lose weight and condition as feed disappeared from the fields.

Emergency report

In a special emergency report prepared for the government the Department of Agriculture listed areas after area where the drought conditions had prevented any growth of grass at all for up to one hundred days.

Farmers have had to use grain and winter feedstuffs to keep their breeding flocks alive. This has pushed up grain prices and Federated Farmers officials have called for a price freeze.

The New Zealand economy depends on its farm exports and the drought has come at

New Zealand is so short of water that in one place the residents are taking their showers under a waterfall because household water supplies have run dry. For the sheep farmers who bring in most of the country's money, it is even more serious.

The worst possible time for the country. Already under strain, farmers' incomes were expected to drop as much as 40 per cent this year. The drought will create even more problems both for farmers and for the country's economy. The only chance many farmers have of surviving is to move their stock to areas where feed is still available. For many this means shipping them in huge articulated road transporters more than 200 kms.

For many hard pressed farmers this operation could have meant bankruptcy. The New Zealand government is now paying the cost of transporting livestock for 200 kms. If farmers have to go further to keep their animals alive, the government will pay 50 per cent of the additional transport costs. The government is also paying \$NZ25 a ton for feed to be trucked to hard hit farmers.

Droughts not uncommon

Local droughts are not uncommon in New Zealand and in fact every two or three years some area usually suffers from prolonged dry spells. What has made the 1978 drought so serious is firstly its intensity and secondly the widespread area affected.

The drought situation is officially described as "critical" in all farming areas from Otago in the extreme south, right through to North Auckland and most of the North Island.

In Taranaki, one of the major dairying areas, only two mm of rain fell in a month. Rainfall between January 1st and late March is less than one third of normal. Other parts of New Zealand have had less than one quarter of the normal rainfall between November and mid March.

Canterbury, home of the famous Canterbury lamb, the Wairarapa and the fruit growing areas in Hawkes Bay and North Otago are all desperate for rain.

Worried officials

Agricultural officials and farmers are worried that the effects of the drought will continue into winter because there is now little time left for grass to grow to provide feed for the winter.

Winter feed crops are usually planted in January or February. Those that were planted have withered in the ground. Many farmers have not been able to plant at all and the autumn frosts are due in April.

Some areas with large irrigation schemes bringing water on the farms escaped the effects of the drought in the early stages but now even they have been hit. All water supplies for irrigation schemes have been cut by 50 per cent and many farms, especially in the South Island, have run out of irrigation water completely.

Fruit and grain crops have also suffered severely from three months with almost no rain. Householders everywhere, including the cities, are also affected by the prolonged drought. There is a widespread ban on the use of garden hoses, sprinklers and other water consuming activities. Outdoor fires are forbidden, and even portable barbecues -- a

great favourite with New Zealanders in summertime -- are banned.

Seawater to flush toilets

In one town near the capital, Wellington, householders have been carrying buckets of seawater to flush their toilets. In another, household water supplies have dried up to such an extent that residents are taking turns to shower under a local waterfall.

In Wellington, water is being carried by tanker to people in outlying suburbs. Washing cars is banned. The Minister of Energy, the Hon. G. F. Cair, has called for a two per cent reduction in electricity consumption throughout the country because water storage in the country's hydro lakes was falling rapidly.

Ironically, one of the worst affected areas is the major lamb producing area of the Wairarapa. Last November this was devastated by floods which washed away topsoil and turned farms into a quagmire. Hundreds of thousands of young lambs were lost.

Now, before farmers have had a chance to recover from the effects of floods they are battling with the other extreme -- day after day of searing sunshine, lack of rain and bare, burnt fields.

When rains do come, hundreds of acres of the Tairarapa will have to be re-sown with grass before it can support sheep flocks. To help, the government has announced it will pay up to \$40 a hectare towards the cost of re-sowing grass.

Although summer sportsmen are benefitting from the long, hot days, New Zealand's major sport -- rugby -- is suffering. Traditionally, rugby teams begin training early in March and play their first matches before the end of the month. Last week several rugby matches were played on concrete hard grounds in temperatures of 26°C-30°C (79° to 86°).

— Financial Times News-Features

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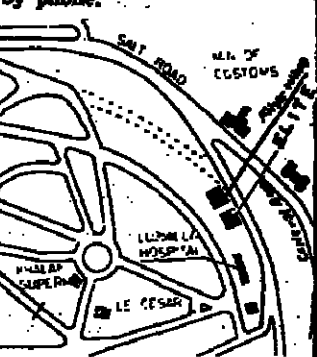
OUT & ABOUT

THE DIPLOMAT
Jabal Amman First Circle tel. 25592 announces good news to our customers. We have now famous Lebanese cooking and staff and we are ready to offer Lebanese specialties as well as oriental and European cuisine at the most reasonable prices.

QUICK MEAL
Restaurants for broasted chicken and light snacks. Take home, lunch or dinner. Jabal Amman, First Circle. Tel. 21083. Jabal Al Lawleh, Hawuz Circle. Tel. 30646. Jabal Al Hussein, near Jerusalem Cinema. Tel. 21781. Also in Zarqa and Irbid.

CHINESE RESTAURANT
First Chinese restaurant in Jordan. First Circle, Jabal Amman, near the Abiliah School or CME. Tel. 38998. Open daily from noon to 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to midnight. Also take home service order by phone.

STEAKHOUSE
First Wings Hotel, Jabal Al Lawleh. Tel. 22103/4. Choice of THREE set menus daily for lunch, and a 4-course. Open 12-3 p.m. and 7-12 p.m. Specialty: steaks.



For advertising in above columns contact "Sout Wa Sour" Tel. 38989. Open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4-6 p.m.

